Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

9 February 2006

NOAA Ocean Service

NOAA Satellites and Information Service

Last bulletin: February 6, 2006

Conditions Report

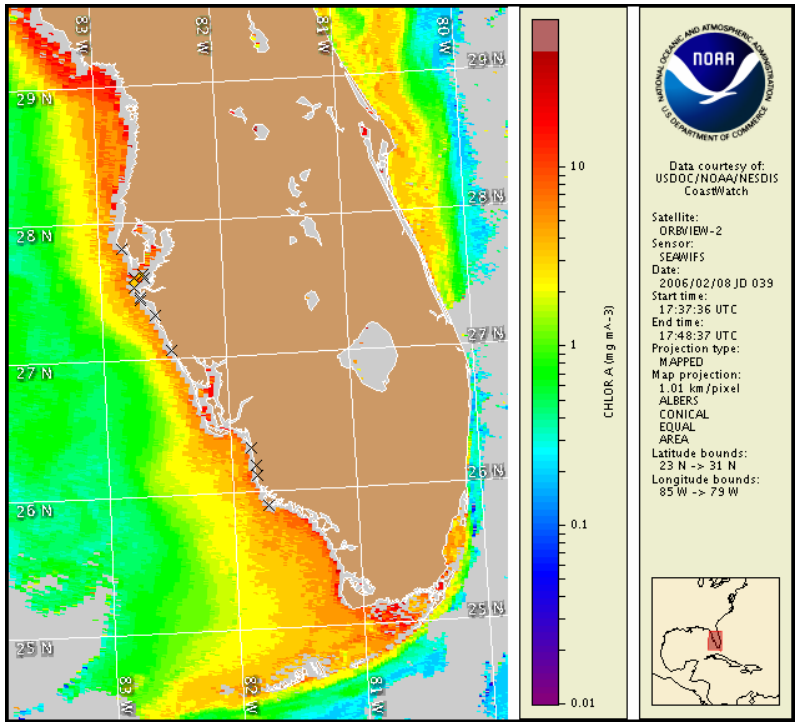
A harmful algal bloom has been identified in southern Pinellas County. Patchy very low impacts are possible in southern Pinellas County today through Monday.

Analysis

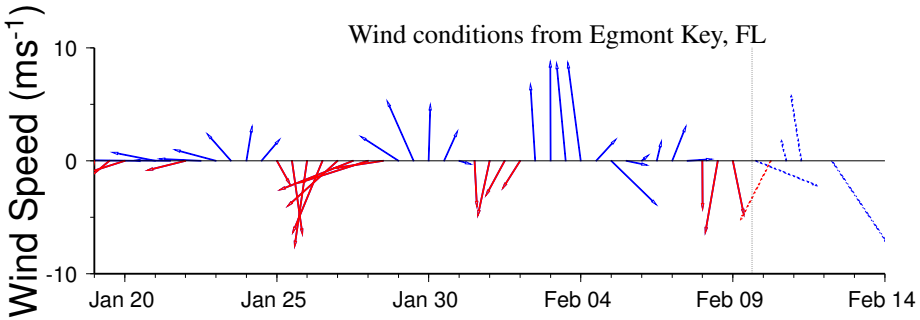
Imagery from the last several days has shown increasing chlorophyll concentrations alongshore from Citrus to Pinellas Counties. Recent sample data shows that much of this is due to non-harmful species. FWRI sample data had very low concentrations of *Karenia brevis* in Pinellas County at Redington Pier on 2/7 and 16 miles offshore of Bayport in Hernando County on 2/2. These may be remnants from recent harmful algal blooms in the vicinity that are strengthening. Chlorophyll anomoly imagery from the past couple of days shows a band of elevated chlorophyll alongshore from Citrus to Pasco Counties, stretching from 28.75°N 82.90°W to 28.25°N 82.90°W. This appears to be a mixed bloom. Continued sampling is recommended. Weak southward expansion of the bloom is possible.

Imagery indicates a slight overall decrease in chlorophyll concentration near the Keys since Monday. Elevated chlorophyll features north of the Keys identified over the past week appear to be slowly weakening. MML samples from 2/1 had up to medium concentrations of *K. brevis* north of the Keys. No new sample data for the Keys are available. Sampling is recommended. Variable winds will probably result in minimal movement.

Bronder, Fenstermacher



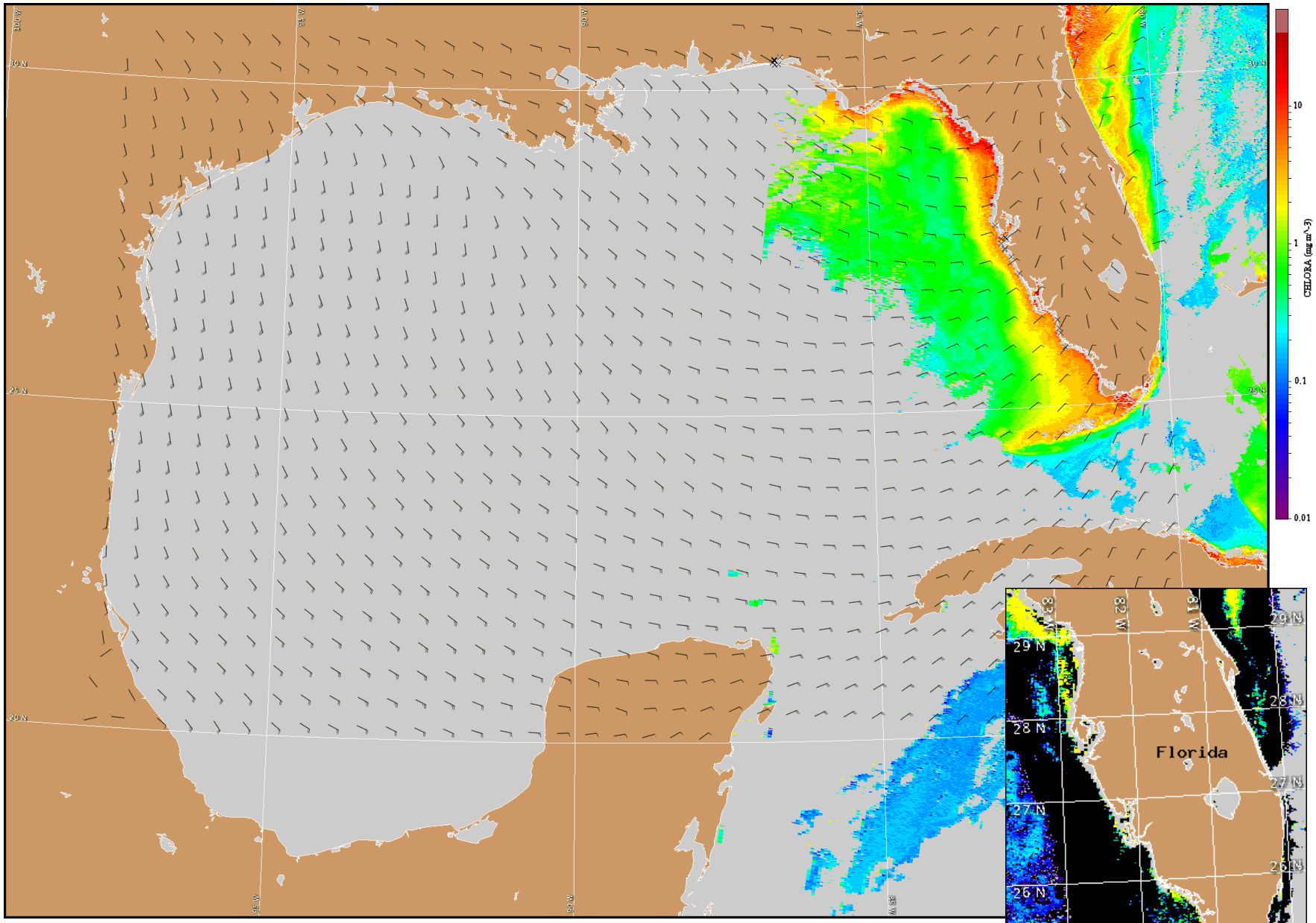
Satellite chlorophyll image with possible HAB areas shown by red polygon(s). Cell concentration sampling data from January 30-31 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts.

SW FL: Winds will be northwest (15 kts, 8 m/s) today, east (10 kts, 5 m/s) becoming south in the afternoon tomorrow, southwest (20 kts, 10 m/s) becoming west in the afternoon Saturday, northwest (20 kts, 10 m/s) Sunday, and northwest (15 kts, 8 m/s) Monday.

FL Keys: Winds will be north (20 kts, 10 m/s) today, east (15 kts, 8 m/s) tomorrow, southeast (15 kts, 8 m/s) becoming west in the afternoon Saturday, northwest (20 kts, 10 m/s) Sunday, and north (15 kts, 8 m/s).



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for February 10, 2006 12Z with cell concentration sampling data from January 30-31 shown as red squares (high), red triangles (medium), red diamonds (low b), red circles (low a), orange circles (very low b), yellow circles (very low a), green circles (present), and black "X" (not present).

Verifi ed HAB areas shown in red. Other bloom areas shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).

Wind conditions from Vaca Key, FL